December 9, 2014

House Michigan Competitiveness Committee
Attn: Rep. Mike Shirkey (R-Clark Lake), Chair
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Members of the House Michigan Competitiveness Committee:

Thank you in advance for considering my emphatic opposition to House Bill 5977. Indeed, local communities must play an active role in charting their economic futures. It's a concept that the State of Michigan readily embraces for itself in several statutes.

Consider, for example, the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act (**Public Act 376 of 1996**), which instructs the Michigan Strategic Fund to *"enter into a written development agreement with the owner of all real property located within the boundaries of the renaissance zone"* for extensions of the tax relief program. Said *"written development agreement shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:*

"(a) The duration of the extension.
 (b) The conditions under which the extension is granted.
 (c) The amount of capital investment.
 (d) The number of jobs to be created.
 (e) Any other conditions or requirements reasonably required by the board of the Michigan Strategic Fund."

In other words, an itemization of how continuation of such a zone will benefit the State of Michigan. Community Benefit Agreements, which House Bill 5977 would largely preempt locals from enacting, seek the same for political subdivisions of the Great Lakes State.

Note, too, that House Bill 5977 gives no deference to the varied economies between, say, Detroit, Grand Rapids and U.P. municipalities. Rather, it myopically seeks to employ a one-size-fits-all approach to matters of development.

For all these reasons, committee members should vote "NO" on this House Bill 5977.

Sincerely,

Rodrick Miller, President, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

cc: Governor Rick Snyder
 House Speaker Jase Bolger
 Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville
 House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel
 Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer